Census of wild animals

1633. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY. Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any census of wild animals like lions, tigers and elephants in the country was conducted during the last three years; and

(b) if so, what is the number of lions and tigers in the country according to the latest census?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R ANSARI): (a) and (b) A census of lions was conducted in 1985 and of tigers in 1984. These indicated the number of lions to be 239, of tigers to be 4005.

Reduction of customs duty of equipment for amusement park project in Hyderabad

1634 SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any request from the Andhra Pradesh Government for reduction of customs duty on equipment worth Rs 30 crores agreed to be invested by the non-resident Indians for setting up an amusement park on the lines of Disney Land in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, what is the response of the Centre to such a proposal; and

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in customs clearance for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation had not forwarded complete information required for examining the request for customs duty exemption. They have been advised to send the proposal with relevant details, on receipt of which a decision would be taken.

Excise duty evasion by the Indian Tobacco Company

1635 SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the raids conducted on the Indian Tobacco Company, short payment of excise duty by fraud, wilful misstatement and supression of facts were detected,

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Indian Tobacco Company for the purpose of ensuring sales of the cigarettes at prices higher than the sale prices printed on the packets had circulated clandestinely effective prices to be adopted by the cigarette sale chain from time to time;

(c) how much amount of excise duty was evaded by the Indian Tobacco Company by these dubious means; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken to realise the evaded excise duty from the Indian Tobacco Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K GADHVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The amount of central excise duty evaded by M/s I.T.C and their job workers, by this method comes to approximately Rs. 803.78 crores for the period 1-3-1983 to 28-2-1987

Amount of excise duty evaded during the period perior to 1.3.1983 on account of under-valuation is over Rs. 275 crores.

(d) Show cause notices demanding the duty evaded have since been issued to M/s I T C Ltd. and their job workers. These cases are under adjudication. M/s. I.T.C. Ltd. have moved a writ petition in the Calcutta High Court challenging the proceedings in the show cause notice of Rs 803.78 crores. The petition is being heard by the Court In respect of other show cause notices, they are pending ad-